

## Message Text

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65

ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DLOS-04

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-02 OES-05 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 TAR-01 STR-04 /151 W  
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R 171505Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5516

INFO CNO WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0822

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS IC

SUBJECT: FISHING LIMITS ISSUE: GOVERNMENT LEADERS FAVOR NEGOTIATIONS  
WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

REF: REYKJAVIK 0816

1. SUMMARY: AT MEETING OF FISHING LIMITS COMMITTEE WHERE EXTENSION  
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OF LIMITS TO 200 MILES WAS FORMALLY APPROVED, EACH OF POLITICAL

PARTIES PUT ON RECORD ITS VIEWS TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES RE FISHING WITHIN NEW LIMITS. GOVERNMENT PARTIES (INDEPENDENCE AND PROGRESSIVE) EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SUCH NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE HELD WHILE OPPOSITION SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, PEOPLES ALLIANCE AND LIBERAL LEFTISTS ALL OPPOSED. END SUMMARY

2. IN INTRODUCING DRAFT LAW ON FISHERIES LIMITS EXTENSION AT FISHING LIMITS COMMITTEE MEETING JULY 15, IP AND PP PUT ON RECORD STATEMENT THAT "IN CONTINUATION OF THE ISSUE OF A REGULATION UPON THE EXTENSION OF THE FISHING JURISDICTION LIMITS TO 200 NAUTICAL MILES ON 15 JULY 1975 AND WITH REGARD TO THE FACT THAT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HAS NOT YET COMPLETED ITS WORK, IT IS NATURAL TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS WITH THOSE NATIONS WHICH SO REQUEST, DUE TO THE EXTENSION, SO THAT MAXIMUM UTILIZATION BY THE ICELANDERS THEMSELVES OF THE STOCKS OF FISH AROUND THE COUNTRY CAN BE GUARANTEED." OPPOSITION SDP, OLL AND PA ENTERED THEIR STAND THAT NO FOREIGN FISHING WITHIN 200 MILE LIMIT SHOULD BE ALLOWED.

3. IN PRESS CONFERENCE EXPLAINING GOVERNMENT POSITION, PRIMIN HALLGRIMSSON SAID, "IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT, SINCE THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE HAS NOT COMPLETED ITS WORK, TO ENGAGE IN SUCH NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE UNILATERAL RIGHT OF A COASTAL STATE TO JURISDICTION WITHIN ITS FISHING LIMITS AREA. AN INFLEXIBLE POLICY AGAINST NEGOTIATION WOULD PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO MINIMIZE COASTAL STATE RIGHTS BY, FOR EXAMPLE, ENTRUSTING A COURT OF ARBITRATION WITH AUTHORITY TO DECIDE ON A DIVISION OF FISHING INSIDE FISHING LIMITS. PRAGMATISM DICTATES THAT WE EVALUATE WHETHER WE ACTUALLY CAN GAIN GREATER FISH CATCHES AND BETTER CONSERVATION OF FISH STOCKS THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS OR WITHOUT NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER NATIONS. WE MUST NOT IGNORE THE FACT THAT WE MUST HAVE OPEN ACCESS TO FOREIGN MARKETS TO SELL OUR FISH. TARIFF WALLS AND OTHER TRADE RESTRICTIONS ON THE FOREIGN MARKETS HAVE, IN THE LONG RUN, EXTREMELY DETRIMENTAL INFLUENCE UPON OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY. IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHERS, WE MUST TRY TO REMOVE ALL SUCH RESTRICTIONS...WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT WE HAVE INTERESTS TO PRESERVE INSIDE THE EXPECTED 200 MILE JURISDICTION OF OTHER STATES, FOR EXAMPLE REGARDING HERRING FISHING IN THE NORTH SEA, COD FISHING OFF GREENLAND, COD AND PERCH FISHING OFF NEWFOUNDLAND...WE GAIN NOTHING FROM ADOPTING A

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PREDETERMINED ATTITUDE THAT THERE SHALL BE NO NEGOTIATIONS. ON THE CONTRARY, WE WOULD DAMAGE OUR POSITION IF WE PURSUED SUCH A POLICY. WE SHALL MAKE A DECISION ON MATTERS INTRODUCED IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS ON GROUNDS OF THE FUNDAMENTAL POLICY OF PRESERVING ICELANDIC INTERESTS AND THE FUTURE WELL-BEING OF ICELAND'S FISHING INDUSTRY."

4. IN DISCUSSING OVERALL REASONS FOR EXTENSION AT THIS TIME,

PRIMIN SAID, "THE FOUNDATION FOR THIS EXTENSION IS THE DRAFT OF AN INTERNATIONAL LAW ON THE SEA INTRODUCED AT THE LAST SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IN GENEVA. WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED APPROVAL OF A FINAL VERSION OF THAT INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT, OR EVEN WITHOUT SUCH AN AGREEMENT, THAT OTHER NATIONS SUCH AS THE NORWEGIANS, THE BRITISH, THE UNITED STATES AND THE CANADIANS WOULD PLAN TO EXTEND THEIR FISHING JURISDICTION LIMITS THIS YEAR. EVERYTHING INDICATES AT PRESENT THAT THESE NATIONS WILL POSTPONE EXTENSION UNTIL AFTER A FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE BY THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. WE, ON THE OTHER HAND, CANNOT WAIT ANY LONGER AND MUST EXPECT THAT OTHER NATIONS WILL UNDERSTAND THE IMPERATIVE NEED WE HAVE FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE LIMITS."

5. PP NEWSPAPER TIMINN IN EDITORIAL SIGNED BY THORARINN THORARINSSON (CHAIRMAN OF ALTHING FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE) SAID THAT PRINCIPLE HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT THAT THERE SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED PHASE-OUT PERIOD FOR FOREIGNERS FISHING WITHIN ICELANDIC LIMITS AND THUS AGREEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE WITH NORWAY, FAROE ISLANDS, BELGIUM AND UK. NOW PA IS REVERSING ITS POSITION. EDITORIAL REPEATED STRONGLY HALLGRIMSSON ARGUMENT THAT ICELAND MAY BE SETTING IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL PRECEDENT SINCE IT MAY BE ONLY COUNTRY TO TAKE UNILATERAL STEP BEFORE CONCLUSION OF LOS AND THAT QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE COMPULSORY INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION COULD WELL BE INFLUENCED BY HOW ICELAND TREATS OTHER NATIONS. HOWEVER, THORARINSSON SPEAKS ONLY OF "TALKS" WITH OTHER NATIONS RATHER THAN NEGOTIATIONS.

6. COMMENT: IT APPEARS BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION ARE TESTING POPULAR SENTIMENT WITH THE PA TAKING LEAD AGAINST TALKS WITH ANYBODY ABOUT FISHING WITHIN 50 MILES (SINCE EAST BLOC COUNTRIES FISH BETWEEN 50 AND 200 MILES). SDP AND OLL ARE FOLLOWING ALONG BUT SDP RECOGNIZES (AT LEAST PRIVATELY) THAT

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SOME NEGOTIATIONS ARE PROBABLY INEVITABLE. IP SEEMS TO BE TAKING LEAD IN FAVOR OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH PP FOLLOWING ALONG PERHAPS LESS THAN WHOLE-HEARTEDLY.  
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## Message Attributes

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